

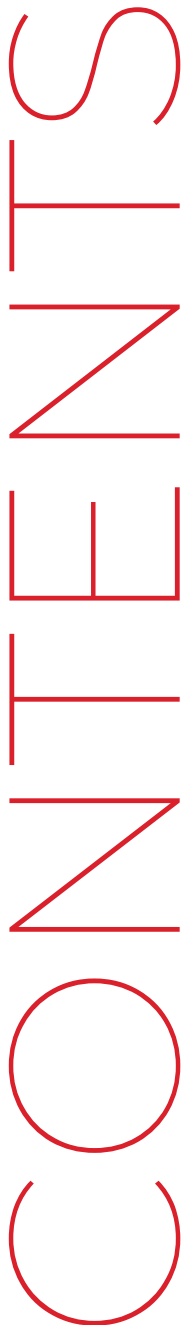
VOLUNTEER NELSON

Annual Report



2024

Table of Contents



01.

What Volunteer Nelson does

02.

Message from the Chair

03.

Message from the Manager

04.

Vision and Strategic Plan

05.

Activities and Service Performance

06.

Treasurers Report

07.

Acknowledgements

WHAT VOLUNTEER NELSON DOES

Volunteer Nelson's purpose is to "Grow our Community connections."

Our vision is to support and strengthen the wellbeing of the community sector through active participation and partnerships. We achieve this by working independently as well as collaborating with fellow community organisations, and leveraging the support of our funders to deliver impactful services and programs aligned with this vision.

Volunteer Nelson offers a core volunteer referral service, which has recently transitioned from the BeCollective platform to SEEK Volunteer, which will benefit community organisations and volunteers.

In addition to this, we manage the Found Directory and host monthly Community and Whānau Networking events and newsletters.

The annual Volunteer Expo continues to be an invaluable addition, enhancing the region's volunteer base and highlighting local volunteering opportunities.

In partnership with Age Concern, we have developed the Wellby programme, which focuses on recruiting and training Signposters and organising Talking Cafés throughout the region. These initiatives help people connect more deeply with their communities and improve overall wellbeing.

Over the years, we have significantly expanded our services and reach. This includes targeted youth initiatives like Young Leaders and Youth into Governance programs, as well as delivering training workshops on shared interests such as governance within the community sector.

Volunteer Nelson operates efficiently with just 2.8 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff, all while achieving remarkable results. This small but dedicated team works tirelessly to make a meaningful impact.

More details about their incredible efforts can be found in the Activities and Service Performance section of this report.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

As we gather for our Annual General Meeting, I am honoured to reflect on the achievements, challenges, and growth Volunteer Nelson has experienced over the past year, and now is our time to acknowledge our collective efforts, celebrate our successes, and set our sights on the year ahead.

This year has been both challenging and rewarding, thanks to the dedication and passion of each board member, volunteer, and supporter involved.

Together, we have worked hard to develop a regional volunteering strategy, transitioned to SEEK Volunteer, brought back the Young Leaders Programme, carried out more Governance training and continued to support our community organisations with our core service of Volunteer referral.

I am truly grateful for your unwavering support and the hours you have dedicated to making our shared goals a reality.

As with any organisation, we have faced our share of challenges, with the biggest being a lack of available funding, despite this, I am proud of how we've come together to find solutions and maintain our commitment to our core purpose and strategic plan.

We are continually evaluating our strategies to ensure that we are well-prepared to meet future challenges head-on.

The coming year promises to bring new opportunities for us to make an even greater impact, But we also know there will be more challenges with further pressures on funding expected.

I am excited about the coming year, we have a strong Board of Trustees and staff, solid programmes like Youth into Governance and Young Leaders, invaluable community services like Wellby and Community & Whānau, and a robust Volunteer Referral programme that will be key to us actioning our Regional Volunteer Strategy, this will enable us to deepen our impact and better serve the needs of our community with the support of other key community organisations. With your continued support, I am confident that we can achieve these goals together.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you for your commitment to our mission. A special thank you to our staff lead by Manager, Gordon Oldfield and our Board members, who work diligently behind the scenes to ensure our operations run smoothly. And, of course, a sincere thanks to our volunteers, who are the backbone of our organisation and many of the organisations we support in the community.

As we move forward, let us reaffirm our commitment to the values that drive our organisation. Together, we can build on our successes, overcome our challenges, and create lasting positive change within our region.

Glen Robinson - Board Chair

MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER

Volunteer Nelson continues to be a small but significant organisation in the community sector of Nelson Tasman. This year has been particularly busy with Volunteer Nelson not only offering volunteer services to community organisations but also supporting these organisations in various ways.

A significant achievement has been the development of the regional volunteering strategy for the top of the South, covering Nelson, Tasman, and Marlborough. This strategy will be valuable to all volunteer-involving organisations in setting a direction for volunteerism in the region.

A survey conducted in December 2023 by the Strengthening the Sector Committee showed that recruiting and retaining volunteers was the second highest concern for community organisations, with only financial sustainability having a higher priority.

In 2020, Volunteer Nelson moved to Be Collective as its volunteer support platform. This platform offered free volunteer management tools to volunteer leaders. During the collection of feedback from volunteer leaders in the development of the regional volunteering strategy, it was found that very few used these volunteer management tools.

The desire of volunteer leaders was to be able to recruit volunteers as quickly and as easily as possible. This feedback prompted Volunteer Nelson to reevaluate its volunteer referral platform, leading to the adoption of Seek Volunteer. This platform is far more user-friendly and is believed to greatly assist volunteer managers going forward.

Seek Volunteer has been very helpful in this transition, ensuring that the new system meets the needs of our community organisations effectively. We anticipate that this platform will not only streamline the recruitment process but also enhance the overall experience for both volunteers and volunteer managers.

The fourth volunteer expo took place at the Annesbrook event centre and was sponsored by NBS. 35 community organisations participated as exhibitors to recruit volunteers. This also provided a greater opportunity for networking amongst organisations. This event provides an excellent opportunity for face-to-face interaction between representatives of an organisation and potential volunteers. This is something that is particularly valued by older volunteers.

Volunteer Nelson was able to offer its full youth volunteering programme. The Young Leaders Programme trained nine young people in youth work and all obtained the Certificate in Youth Work Level 3. This involved undergoing a week of intensive theoretical training followed by field work which was supported by Volunteer Nelson. Each trainee led a community volunteer project and also mentored a young person. This added to youth volunteering opportunities and provided a positive experience for the young volunteers.

The Youth Into Governance Programme was the other youth programme and was also a great success. This programme matched ten young people as governance interns to mentors on ten community boards. The programme provided several forums on governance and also gave the interns practical experience and knowledge.

MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER (Cont'd)

Additionally, the community sector of Nelson Tasman has been supported by Volunteer Nelson in the following ways:

- Organising and delivering a monthly community and Whānau meeting.
- Compiling and circulating a fortnightly e-newsletter for the sector.
- Administering and maintaining the Found Community Directory.

In addition to improving well-being in the community through participation in volunteering, Volunteer Nelson has worked in partnership with Age Concern Nelson Tasman to grow the Wellby Programme. This initiative aims to reduce the risk of social isolation and loneliness among vulnerable members of the community. The feedback from participants has been overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the programme's effectiveness in enhancing their social connections and overall quality of life.

Looking ahead, Volunteer Nelson remains committed to supporting the community sector through innovative solutions and dedicated service, ensuring that volunteerism continues to thrive in our region.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the current staff, Ellie Young, Megan Callahan, Danielle Robson, and Karen Nancarrow, for their excellent work over the last year, as well as the continued support of Melissa McArthur. Their dedication and tireless efforts have significantly contributed to the success and impact of our programmes.

I would also like to acknowledge the contribution of previous staff members such as Sharon Doole, Holly Drummond and Jane Solly. Holly and Jane worked for Volunteer Nelson for over a decade and made a significant contribution to the organization during their tenure.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to the Board of Trustees for Volunteer Nelson for their unwavering support and guidance. Their commitment to our mission has been invaluable, and it has enabled us to achieve our goals and serve our community more effectively.

Gordon Oldfield - Manager

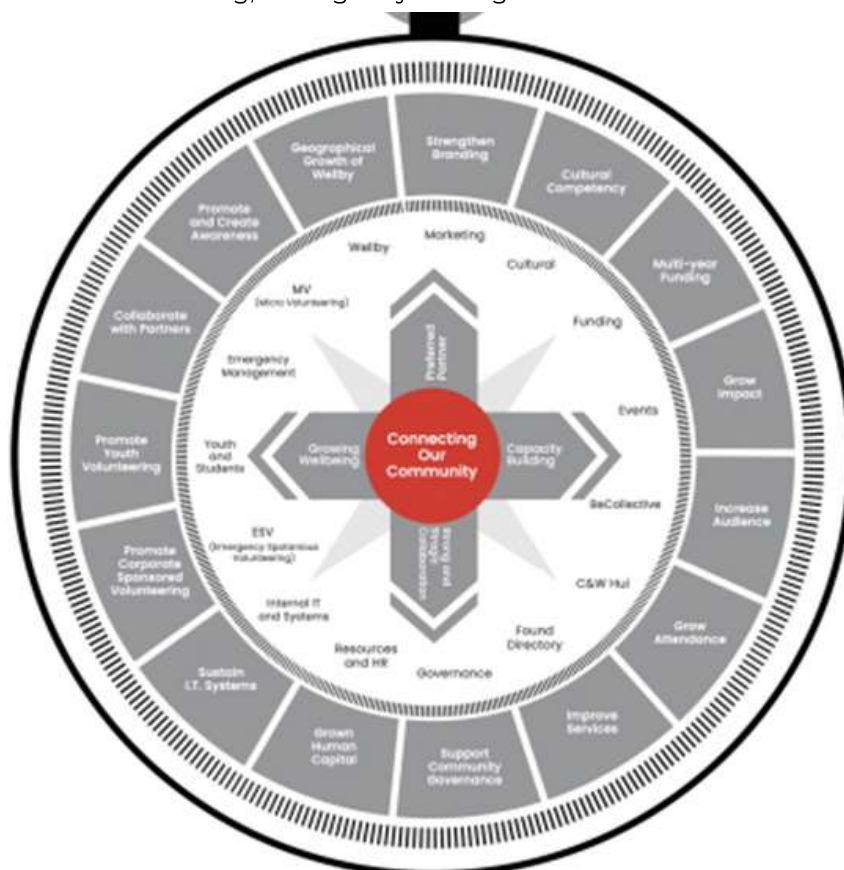
VISION AND STRATEGIC PLAN

In 2023 the Board and Gordon, with significant input from the staff, worked hard to develop our Strategic Vision and Plan for Volunteer Nelson. The challenge has been to create a plan, in line with our values and vision, which accurately reflects the Organisation as it exists now.

This work developed our current Vision statement “Growing our Community Connections” and established the 4 new ‘pillars’ representing our work, summarised as: Growing Wellbeing, Preferred Partner, Building Capacity and Strong and Strategic Collaboration.

In 2024 we have continued to build on this vision and worked with a compass-style visual to reflect the fact that though Volunteer services are still a key function of Volunteer Nelson, in practice now we have much wider involvement in community services, with expanding services such as Wellby. Alongside this, we had created a plan for the future which balances ambitious aspirations with realistic goals, and one which aligns with both the Board and the staff’s visions for the future.

We had worked together to create something which demonstrates our commitment to strengthening and growing our core existing services in the Youth arena, governance, and volunteer services, while recognising opportunities for development such as Corporate sponsored volunteering, Emergency management and Micro volunteering.



ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE PERFORMANCE

Found Directory & Be Collective

The Found Directory has a total of 1545 listings from Community Organisations, and this year we had a huge number of new users to the Directory, this shows real engagement from the community to support the directory as either an end user or a community organisation.

At 30 June 2024 Be Collective remained the forum for matching volunteers with opportunities for them to give back to their community during the year, however in November 2024 we transitioned to SEEK Volunteer to better align with our users needs and offer a more well known and easy use platform.

Statistics:

Be Collective

Member Organisations registered with VN - 223

Active volunteering opportunities - 290

Volunteers registered with VN on Be Collective - 1981

Found Directory 2023 - 2024

Found website new users - 38,699

Found website returning users - 10,409

Found Active Listings - 1,545

"We have been able to find the perfect volunteer for us, only few hours after posting our opportunity! The platform is definitely user friendly and kaimahi at Volunteer Nelson and Be Collective very helpful and supportive. Such a great tool to use for organisation looking for volunteers!"

Wellby Talking Cafes and Signposters

While we reduced the number of cafes held in 2024 vs 2023 from 94 to 73 we only saw a drop in attendees from 898 to 880 showing that our cafes are growing attendance and we have improved our focus On the cafes that have the better impact on the surrounding communities.

Statistics:

Total Talking Cafe's this year - 73 cafes,
Total attendees - 880

"Again, it amazes me how interesting the topics are when you 'throw' strangers together, quite different than meeting up with friends. Although, some of the regular attendees are becoming very friendly and there was a group today, who were spontaneously staying at McCashins for lunch together!"

NBS Volunteer Expo

The 2024 Volunteer Expo, organized by VN in collaboration with Age Concern Nelson Tasman and sponsored by NBS, took place on Saturday, July 13, at the Annesbrook Event Centre.

The Expo is not only an opportunity to recruit volunteers but also an opportunity to raise the profile of organizations among the public.

It was noted that the visitors to the Expo appeared to be more diverse, with a greater number of younger people attending than in the past.



Governance Training Sessions

Garth Nowland-Foreman of the Lead Centre for Not-for-Profit Leadership held a full day Governance Workshop, the workshop sold out very quickly and showed the need for this type of workshop within the region.

The Workshop received overwhelmingly positive feedback from attendees and attracted people who travelled from outside Nelson.

The survey results highlighted a high level of satisfaction among the participants, with many noting the workshop's practicality and the valuable insights gained for their roles in governance.



Community & Whānau

Volunteer Nelson facilitated 11 monthly meetings of the Community and Whānau Network over the past year, bringing together 437 attendees.

Additionally, 26 editions of the Community and Whānau News e-newsletter were published, reaching 747 subscribers.

To further support the sector, Volunteer Nelson provides bi-monthly newsletters tailored for managers of volunteers and offers personalized, one-on-one assistance to organizations in navigating and utilizing the Be Collective platform effectively.



Young Leaders - Level 3 Certificate in Youth Work

Volunteer Nelson held an intense five-day training course in April 2024 with 9 enthusiastic participants. They then mentored 9 mentees for 6 weeks and successfully ran 9 youth projects, reaching over 300 young people in total. Highlights included the Matariki Hangi at Garin College for the school and wider community, as well as Motueka High School's Enviro Week, which celebrated sustainability through eco art and seed bomb-making workshops that promoted local biodiversity. Other activities included a school dance competition, craft day, art competition, the establishment of a support group for young men, and a Wellbeing yoga session to celebrate International Yoga Day.

Additionally, we held 6 group catch-up meetings and individual sessions for extra support when needed. I'm thrilled to announce that all 9 participants have completed the programme as of October 2024 and are now equipped with valuable skills to lead and inspire other young people in our community.

Statistics:

9 participants, mentoring 9 Young People over 6 weeks, running 9 youth projects reaching over 300 young people

The Young Leaders Program through Volunteer Nelson has been a great opportunity to meet new people and develop my youth work skills. To be honest meeting everyone during the school holidays to complete a majority of the work was quite intimidating. As soon as I walked in the room all my fears melted away. I was met with like-minded people who were eager to learn about empowering the young people in our lives. During the program I felt supported knowing everyone was there to help and would encourage those who have a passion for working with others to check it out. Volunteer Nelson works hard to ensure everyone can achieve their best with a big focus on participation at your level.

Okay, what did I actually do... played many teamwork and leadership games to build connection in the group, had the opportunity to lead groups and watch a young person succeed countless times during mentoring sessions, supported others during the program to problem solve and provide encouragement as young people are all very unique. Also earned some NCEA qualifications along the way, always a nice bonus!"
Cameron Hatton - Young Leaders Participant

Youth into Governance 2023/2024

Volunteer Nelson again ran its popular Youth into Governance programme, running from November 2023 to September 2024.

It's a unique opportunity for young people to dive into the world of governance and help shape the future of our communities.

This programme began in 2019 with Big Brothers Big Sisters, and this year will be Volunteer Nelson's third year of running it.

Our aim has always been to increase diversity on boards and bring fresh, young perspectives into the decision-making processes that shape our organizations and impact our communities.

Statistics:

- Participants: 10 young people
- Boards Engaged: 10 boards
- Completed: 8 young people
- Dropped Out: 2 (1 due to board folding & 1 due to a board member's health)

We ran 3 forums featuring guest speakers:

- Michelle Nunes-Vaz from Accounting for Good
- Gael Gordon from Business Assist

"My experience with being a board member on restorative justice is unimaginable. I've learned more about our society and how organisations like restorative justice run by being on the board than I ever could've learnt researching on how trusts operate. I've gained understanding and knowledge around how to operate as a team and lead an organisation towards its goals. I've practiced speaking in front of members of the board and voicing my views as well as representing my peers at meetings every month. I've benefited from the use of restorative justice and conflict resolution in my wider community with the application of these techniques on issues that face those around me. My experience with restorative justice is unique to me and this organisation, being part of a board provides different practices and views that you may've never known about, as I learnt with restorative justice. Being apart of a board provides a unique experience to all, something you won't get anywhere else. I highly recommend that youth get involved to both shape the world before they inherit it, and to learn skills that they can get only in governance."

Jack Simmons - YIG Participant.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Statement of Financial Performance

For the year ended 30 June 2024

	NOTES	2024	2023
Revenue			
Donations, fundraising and other similar revenue	1	1,000	55
Revenue from providing goods or services	1	253,348	371,760
Interest, dividends and other investment revenue	1	11,120	7,760
Other revenue	1	7,409	3,652
Total Revenue		272,878	383,227
Expenses			
Volunteer and employee related costs	2	206,311	191,594
Costs related to providing goods or service	2	92,286	112,909
Other expenses	2	11,651	4,400
Total Expenses		310,247	308,903
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		(37,369)	74,324
Total Income		↘ 28.8%	
\$272.9K		\$383.2K	total last year to date

The deficit of \$37,369 this year contrasts with a surplus of \$75,321, in 2023, this was primarily caused by a decrease in regular funders.

The board is exploring alternative funding opportunities and trying to improve operational efficiencies to maintain financial health while safeguarding its core services.

To ensure continuity of services amidst reduced funding the organisation has responsibly utilised reserves accumulated in the past few years.

Financial Position 30 June 2024

Bank 282,195 Unspent Grants 109,641
Accumulated Funds 159,436

The board has decided in accordance with their rules not to have a review or audit for this financial year.

Despite current challenges, Volunteer Nelson remains committed to its mission, supported by prudent management and a dedicated team.

Kind Regards

Michelle Nunes-Vaz
CA PTB

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We couldn't do it without the amazing mahi and support of our team, volunteers, funders and sponsors.

We thank our wonderful staff team of Gordon, Ellie, Karen, Danielle, Megan and Melissa, and all of the contractors and volunteers who help them throughout the year. We would also like to recognise the hard work and dedication of the Board; Glen, David, Jacqui, Michelle, Louise, Marie, Shân and Bence.

THANK YOU to each and every one of you,
our successes are your successes.



CONTACT

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